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## GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL.<sup>1</sup>

ASIA.—According to a letter in a recent number of the *Revista de Geografia Comercial*, the population of the Philippine Islands is very unequally distributed, since while there are sections which, without being the most fertile, contain 223 inhabitants to the square kilometre, other sections, and these among the most fertile, have only three or four inhabitants to the same area. According to the same periodical, the sanitary conditions of the port of Paraqua Island (*Puerto-Princesa*) have become much more favorable since the forest, which formerly extended to the coast, has been cut down for a width of six kilometres, and the cleared space has been occupied with plantations of coco palms, plantains, and cacaos.

Paraqua is the third in size of the Philippine Islands, and measures 445 kilometres in its greatest length, by 44 in its greatest width. Upon its coasts are many excellent and well-sheltered ports and bays, the principal of which are Vyalampaya, Puerto-Princesa, and Ulugan. A range of mountains, the culminating points of which are Montalingahan (2.080 m.) on the S., and Victoria (1.372 m.) more to the N., parts the island into two parts. Rich alike in fertile soil and in valuable woods, this island has hitherto been greatly neglected by its owners. Its population does not exceed 28,000—viz.: 10,000 Christians in the N.; 6000 Mahometans on the S., about 6000 Tachanuas, 500 negritos, 1500 tandalanos, and 4000 manguianes.

EASTER ISLAND.—The *Revista de Geografia Comercial* (Nov. 15, 1888) states that the Republic of Chili has resolved to annex Easter Island, which was discovered by Juan Fernandez, and which in 1470 was formally taken possession of in the name of King Charles III., of Spain. Easter Island is of triangular form; 35 kilometres in circuit, and its highest point in the extreme northwest is 597 metres above the sea. It is emphatically a land of extinct volcanoes; one of these is placed at each angle; Kau on the south, Horni on the north, and Utuiti on the east. There are many other smaller volcanoes. The volcano Kau has an elevation of 408 m. and its crater, which is 200 m. deep and 1500 m. in diameter at the bottom, is remarkable for the regularity of its shape. In the bottom of this crater there are springs of potable water and fine plantations of sugar-canes and plantains.

<sup>1</sup> Edited by W. N. Lockington, Philadelphia, Pa.

The inhabitants are probably not more than 200 in number. The average height of the men is 1.57 m., that of the women, 1.50.

Easter Island is celebrated for its gigantic statues which the natives call *moai*, and also contains ruins of houses, vast platforms, and cemeteries. The statues represent the upper part of the body as far as the hips, with the arms united to the sides, the hands embracing the hips, and the face with a disdainful expression. They are carved from a compact gray lava which abounds in the crater of Utuiti, but have crowns of red lava of conical shape and about three feet in height. Most of these statues are from fifteen to nineteen feet in height, but some are much larger, notably two which are stretched upon the ground near Utuiti. In one of these the body alone is 12 m. high, and the nose 3.40 m. The interior of the crater of Ronororaka contains forty of these statues, all with the face turned towards the north; and the summit of this mountain seems a great workshop of unfinished statues. One of the platforms, on the south coast, is .9 m. high, and 100 m. long, is enclosed with a wall, and contains numerous overthrown statues as well as some low columns which apparently served as altars. The cemeteries (Papakoo) are double platforms, the upper one containing sepulchral chambers. Wooden slabs with hieroglyphics exist upon the island, but no one can decipher them, so that the origin of the huge ruins is unknown. There is, however, great similarity between the statues and the sculptures of the Aymaras of Peru.

JAPAN.—According to the first official statistics published by the Japanese Government, the empire contains 381,845 square kilometres, and has a population of 38,151,271. The number of men greatly exceeds that of the women, and divorces are so numerous that they amount annually to 3 in every 1000 inhabitants. The mortality is low compared with that of most European countries, since it is only 19 per 1000. Japan has 721 towns with more than 2000 inhabitants, and five of more than 100,000—viz.: Tokio, 912,837; Osaka, 353,970; Kioto, 235,403; Nogoya, 126,898; and Kanakasa, 104,020. The production of tea each year is about 23,000,000 of kilograms and that of silk 3,000,000 of kilograms. The amount of rice, wheat, barley, sugar-cane, and other agricultural products, is such as to prove that either the soil is superior to that of Europe, or that it is better cultivated. The very considerable extent of forest that still remains may perhaps partially explain the fertility. Two hundred and fifty six telegraphic and 92 telephonic offices exist in the empire. A carpenter earns about 35 cents a day, a stone-mason about 44 cents.

AMERICA. CASSIQUIARE.—The *Revista de Geografia Comercial* dissects sarcastically the *discoveries* of M. Chauffanjon in the region of the Upper Orinoco. If the *Revista* is correct, and it certainly fortifies its assertions with names and dates, M. Chauffanjon's achievements are similar to those of the immortal Captain Glazier. The

*Revista* states that in 1743, the Jesuit P. Roman passed along the Cassiquiare from the Orinoco to the Rio Negro; that Diaz de la Fuente and Bobadilla followed the Orinoco nearly to its source and 87 leagues above the separation of the Cassiquiare; that the Marquis of Socorro, with Hurriage and other commissioners deputed to fix the boundaries of Brazil, found the latitude and longitude of the point of origin of the Cassiquiare, and calculated its altitude at 337 Spanish yards above sea-level; and that the mountains which M. Chauffanjon has rebaptized bear the title of Parima, though in different portions of their extent they are called Tapiraperú, Patuibiri, Arihuana, Maritani, Humirida, Pacaraima, etc.

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS.—The principal articles of export from Spain, besides wine, are iron, copper, lead, cork, and oranges. The values of these articles during the first four months of 1888 were, according to the *Revista de Geografia Comercial*, respectively \$2,166,000, \$2,921,000, \$1,626,000, \$3,363,000, \$1,351,000, and \$1,783,000. The value of wine exported during the same four months was \$20,466,800.

A project to run a line of steamers between Vigo and New York has been set on foot by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce at the latter place. Vigo is only 60 miles further from New York than Queenstown, and is 231 miles nearer than Havre. The lower latitude, independent route, and comparative freedom from fog and wind, will more than compensate for the slightly increased distance.

The Manchester ship canal, now in course of construction, will be 35 miles long, the width varying from 170 to 260 feet at the top, a width at the bottom in no case less than 130 feet, and a minimum depth of 25 feet. The contract is let for £5,750,000, but the company has a subscribed capital of £8,000,000. The opening of this canal will practically make Manchester a seaport. As the city with its suburbs contains 850,000 souls and will be geographically the nearest port for 7,000,000 of people, the construction of this canal cannot but be injurious to Liverpool.

The province of Santandar, Spain, contains in operation 360 zinc mines, 312 iron mines, 30 lead, 19 copper, and 17 coal mines. Less than a fourth part of its area is cultivated, and rather more than a fourth is in pasture.

The population of Belgium, according to the census of Dec. 31, 1887, amounted to 5,974,000.